United Nations E/AC.51/2008/L.4/Add.17

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
26 June 2008

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-eighth session
9 June-3 July 2008
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011
(Item 3 (b))

Programme 20
International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

1. At its 11th meeting, on 18 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 20, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 20)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011, in particular for the simplicity of the document, which clearly synthesizes the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The leadership of the Office in providing for the protection of refugees, seeking a permanent solution to their problem and ensuring assistance for them was also commended.

4. The view was expressed that preventing the causes of forced population movements, as mentioned in paragraph 20.4 (a) of the proposed biennial programme

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plan, should be addressed by others who may have more of a mandate for prevention. Furthermore, the view was expressed that the phrase "sustainability of return" would capture the concept better than the phrase "mitigating and preventing the causes" in that paragraph.

5. Clarification was sought on how UNHCR develops contingency planning and emergency preparedness, as mentioned in paragraph 20.4 (e), and on its cooperation and collaboration with other entities of the United Nations system to ensure a systematic and organized approach. It was also observed that the 10-point plan of action developed in the context of the Mediterranean region could be reviewed by the Executive Committee to consider its applicability in other regions.

6. Clarification was sought on the meaning of "environmental considerations" referred to in paragraph 20.4 (f).

7. The view was expressed that in relation to paragraph 20.7, there was no related indicator of achievement with regard to the monitoring of the observance by States of internationally accepted standards for the treatment of refugees.

8. With respect to "mixed migration movements" referred to in paragraph 20.8, the view was expressed that UNHCR had no mandate in relation to some categories of persons, giving rise to the question of how to tailor solutions. Clarification was sought regarding the methodology used for determining "mixed migration".

9. The effort to mainstream policies and guidelines relating to the protection needs of refugee women, children and adolescents referred to in paragraph 20.9; the improvement in results-based budgeting and the improved demographic data deriving from enhanced registration tools; and the use of standards and indicators for UNHCR assistance sectors were welcomed.

10. The view was expressed that the participatory approach mentioned in paragraph 20.11 had improved the quality of UNHCR assistance programmes and that it should be explicitly recognized that that approach might also involve host countries and the members of the Executive Committee of UNHCR.

11. The view was expressed that the phrase "persons of concern" was too vague and inaccurate and should be better defined.

12. With regard to expected accomplishment (b), it was found to be limiting to highlight, in terms of standards, one conclusion of the Executive Committee, and clarification was sought as to how to measure compliance with regard to the Executive Committee's conclusions on women and girls at risk and on children at risk. Concerning expected accomplishment (c), a specific reference to the protection of refugees should be included, and the view was expressed that the indicators of achievement should be rearranged to start with (ii), followed by (i) and (iii).

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 20, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan.**